(c) whether some States like Karnataka and Maharashtra have already taken a decision in that regard. If so, what are the details and rationale of the whole policy;

(d) whether the laws incorporated under the Ninth Schedule can be challenged on grounds of violation of Fundamental Rights; and

(e) whether Government propose to bring a legislation in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government have taken a decision to include 27 land reforms laws in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution. Of these 27 laws nine laws are of Bihar, one law of Karnataka, two laws of Kerala, one law of Orissa, three laws of Rajasthan, four laws of Tamil Nadu and seven laws of West Bengal are proposed for inclusion.

The reasons for the proposed inclusion are to give protection to these laws from being challenged on the grounds of violation of fundamental rights enshrined in part III of the Constitution.

(b) There is no proposal to relax the land ceiling limit for Companies to attract investment in export-oriented products except for the exemptions already provided under the guidelines drawn up on the basis of the conclusions arrived at in the Chief Ministers' Conference on Ceiling on Agricultural Holdings held in July, 1972.

(c) No proposal has been received from Karnataka. However, recently a proposal was received from the Government of Maharashtra which envisaged permitting with certain conditions, an individual or a firm, trust, company or cooperative society for the purpose of cultivation of horticulture produce or the Agro Processing Unit to hold beyond ceiling limit cultivable land on lease from the farmers for a period not exceeding 35 years or un-cultivable land viz. wasteland, fallow land, khajan or khar land on ownership or on lease from a farmer or both combined. The State Gvernment has, however, been advised to reconsider their proposal in the light of the guidelines on ceiling on agricultural holdings.

(d) The laws included in the Ninth Schedule get protection from being challenged on grounds of violation of fundamental rights.

(e) Yes. It is proposed to bring in a legislation for inclusion of 27 land reforms laws in the Ninth Schedule.

Proposal for Expansion for Rural Development Programmes

3242. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rural development programmes under the Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology are proposed to be expanded;

(b) if so, the details of the expansion programme; and

(c) the results achieved under the existing scheme during the last three years, alongwith the amount released and spent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI PATEL): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Rural Development gives financial assistance to the voluntary organisations for rural development projects through the Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART). It is the policy of the Government to encourage voluntary action in rural development. Over the years, there has been a progressive increase in the number of voluntary organisations, projects sanctioned, amount sanctioned and released for the projects by CAPART. The details in respect of number

of projects sanctioned, amount sanctioned and amount released relating to various schemes during the last 3 years is at Annexure, (*See* Appendix 170, Annexure No. 66)

Sanitation Facilities in Rural Areas

3243. SHRI RAJENDRA PRASAD MODY) Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total population with percentage in rural areas only covered with sanitation facilities by the end of June, 1993; and

(b) the steps taken to eliminate manual scavenging in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI PATEL): (a) Out of a total rural population of 6286.914 lakhs, 780.72 lakhs (12.47% rural population had access to sanitation facilities by the end of June, 1993 through Government assisted programmes and private initiatives.

(b) Most of the States had reported that there is no problem of manual scavenging in rural areas. However, in the revised guidelines of Centrally Sponsored Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP), the Central Government has permitted conversion of dry latrines, wherever existing in rural areas into sanitary latrines with 80% subsidy from the Central/State Government and balance 20% being contributed by the beneficiary. The allocation under CRSP has also been increased from year to year Rs. 20. crores in 1992-93, Rs. 30 crores in 1993-94 and Rs. 60 crores in 1994-95 in the Central Sector with a matching provision/expenditure by the States.

Conference on Panchayati Raj Legislation

3244. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Conference of Ministers and Secretaries in-charge of Panchayats was held last July, 1993 to discuss the Panchayati Raj Legislation;

(b) if so, whether the meeting had decided that new legislation would be placed before the respective State Assemblies; and has also been agreed that provisions of the Constitution 74th (Amendment) Act, 1992 relating to the Constitution of District Planning Committees, providing for forming it a part of the new Panchayati Raj legislations of the states;

(c) if so, whether any State has so far introduced such a legislation;

(d) if so, the names thereof; and

(e) whether Government have drawn the attention of the State Governments to the slow progress in implementing the Panchayati Raj Legislation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It was recommended in the Conference that new legislation would be placed before the respective State Assemblies. It was also recommended that the provisions relating to Constitution of District Planning Committees provided in the Constitution (74th Amendment) Act, 1992 would form a part of the new Panchayati Raj legislation of the States.

(c) and (d) So, far, Bihar, Karnataka, Sikkim, Tripura, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Gujarat have enacted legislation on Panchayati Raj.